




MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

THROUGH: Marcus Jones, City Manager

FROM: David Ricks, Director of Public Works 
John Kownack, CEO for NRHA; David Freeman, Director of General Services; Darrell
Crittendon; Director of Recreation Parks and Open Space; James Rogers, Director of
CC TO: Neighborhood Development

SUBJECT: Enhancing the Curb Appeal of NRHA Properties

DATE: March 11, 2016

At the September 2015 City Council Retreat, one of the discussion topics was how to enhance the appearance of the communities of Calvert Square, Diggs Town, Grandy Village, Oakleaf Forest, Tidewater Gardens and Young Terrace. A special appropriation of \$150,000 was later appropriated to purchase equipment to help remove litter from these communities. Several meetings were conducted by Public Works with NRHA, RPOS and General Services to discuss ways to address the large volumes of litter found in many of the NRHA properties.

Currently, NRHA is paying Public Works Waste Management for the once weekly service of dumping 3,394 standard 95 gallon containers. The fee charged to NRHA does not cover yard waste or bulk items pickup. There currently is no curbside recycling in any of these communities. At the most recent meeting (January 12, 2016), Public Works offered the following suggestions:

- Conversion to dumpster service was discussed. It was noted that NRHA switched from the dumpster service years ago because of the problems associated with their location, vandalism/destruction, rodents, etc. NRHA properties of Eulalie Bobbitt Apartments, Franklin Arms, Hunter Square Apartments, Robert Partrea Apartments and Sykes Apartments (senior midrise properties) currently rent dumpsters through the City's dumpster contract and directly pay the vender.
- Lease additional 95-gallon containers through Public Works Waste Management;
- Begin a curbside recycling program.
- Purchase of a small litter collection vehicle to be used to support NRHA anti-littering efforts.

Public Works and NRHA staff stressed the importance of citizen education and enforcement of city ordinances and NRHA rules.

NRHA has outlined current practices and enhancements being sought that include:

- Increasing Community Days,
- Providing resident incentives, particularly for the youth;
- Revising next year's budget to expand trash pick-up (bulk, waste).
- Review current bulk wastes pick up to see if we can increase pickups in each community daily.
- Employ all site maintenance and grounds staff to increase litter control efforts.

Next Steps:

- Present options at the NRHA Tenant Management Councils (TMCs) meeting on Feb 19, 2016, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Grandy Village. The purpose of the meeting with the TMCs is to discuss the litter problem and to obtain input and support from residents.
- Obtain additional 95 gallon containers through public works, specifically increasing the number for large families.
- A requisition for \$150K is underway for purchase of a mini sweeper that will be used to help control litter in the above-listed NRHA communities.